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Docket Files

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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Honorable Charles Wilson House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Wilson:

This is in reply to your letter of February 1, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, William Krick, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the <u>Notice</u> reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u>, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the <u>Notice</u> that describes the numerous proposals.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems, including the costs of required modifications.

No. of Copies rec'd\_\_\_ List A B C D E We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the <u>Notice</u>, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u> are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

Ralph A Haller

Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures: Notice Order

CHTL NO - 9300403

cc:

Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&MDivison
Deputy Chief, LM&M Division
Lou Sizemore, Room 857
Docket Files, Room 222
Licensing Div., PRB, c/o Room 5202
P&P Branch Files

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## Congressional

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## LETTER REPORT

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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

**Mashington**, **BC** 20515–4302

February 1, 1993

The Honorable Alfred C. Sikes Chairman, Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

A copy of a letter from Mr. William Krick of Huntsville, Texas is enclosed. Mr. Krick expresses concern about proposed docket no. 92-23.

While I understand the need to plan for spectrum lines to accommodate new and future technologies, I share Mr. Krick's concern that the rule change will have a negative impact on rural areas that are now and will be dependent on two-way radio communications for some time to come.

I would appreciate information on what plans the forhas to address the special needs of rural areas in this rule change. Thank you for your time and attention this request.

Sincerely,

Charles Wilson

CW:el enclosure

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January 8, 1993

The Honorable Charles Wilson U S House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20575

Dear Congressman Wilson:

For nearly fifty years, employees of the forest industries have depended on two-way radio communications for safety and for expediting their job responsibilities. The nature of their work isolates them in remote areas of the forest and the radio is their only link for rapid assistance in case of emergency.

Now we are advised that the Federal Communication Commission is proposing to completely scrap the current Part 90 Rules and Regulations and create a new set of Rules, Part 88 which will tremendously impact our operations in a negative way.

We are requesting that you oppose FCC Docket 92-235.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

William P. Krick, Jr.